

Amendments to the Specification:

On Page 1, after the title, please insert the following new heading and paragraph:

Related Applications

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/AU02/00747, filed June 7, 2002, which was published under PCT Article 21(2) in English and is incorporated herein by reference. International Application No. PCT/AU02/00747 claims priority from Australian Patent Application Nos. PR 5540 filed June 7, 2001 and PR 5541 filed June 7, 2001, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

On Page 2, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 24 and ending on line 25 with the following amended paragraph:

a rotatable cam element having a projection capable of engaging one or more of the grooves to alter the distance between the base and the cam element[.];

At the beginning of Page 3, before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraphs:

a rotatable cam element having a projection capable of engaging one or more of the grooves to alter the distance between the base and the cam element;

Because the cam element can be rotated to a position where the projection does not engage the grooves, the cam element can be set to different positions to effect coarse adjustment, and then rotated to engage the grooves and effect fine adjustment. The device of the invention is thus capable of being reset into different positions and so can accommodate a wide range of height adjustments.

The cam element is designed so that a stud or other element with the adjustment device attached can be raised or lowered without the requirement to cause the full length of the pin to be engaged by the projection on the cam element.

The pin in the adjustment device of the invention may be of any desired length. Although it is anticipated that the adjustment device of the invention may often be used to effect an adjustment of around 6-7 millimetres in the case of use in building construction, it is entirely feasible to use the adjustment device of the invention for far greater adjustment.

The grooves on the pin are preferably inclined. These may form a screw thread or a series of inclined, parallel grooves on opposing sides of the pin.

Preferably, the cam element is designed so that rotation can be effected by an allen key or similar tool.

When the adjustment device of the invention includes biasing means, and especially when the device is inserted in a web of a stud, it is preferred that the adjustment device is supplied on site in a prestressed stage. This may be achieved by engaging the cam element with one of the grooves, against the bias provided by the spring. On site, when it is desired to adjust the stud (to make up a minor or major discrepancy in height), the cam can be rotated to engage a groove above or below that of the original engagement, as desired, in order to elevate or lower the stud. Preferably, the device includes a stop which can lock the cam in a desired position. The cam may be rotatable through a narrow arc for this purpose - for example, less than 80°.

In this embodiment, if it is decided on site that a greater height adjustment is required, the device is designed so that rotation through more than, say, 80°, will release engagement of the projection on the cam with the pin. The spring bias will then urge the cam away from the base to take up available height and the cam may then be rotated to engage another groove, to be subsequently locked in the new position.

On Page 3, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 24 and ending on line 4 of Page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, in a second aspect the present invention provides a building element suitable for use as a stud or mullion, the building element having a first set of two or more channels and a second set of channels, each channel in each set being adapted to receive a co-operating means for the purpose of mounting a panel or bracket on the building element, the first set of channels being parallel to and spaced from the second set of channels, each channel in the first set of channels having a base between a pair of sides, the bases of the channels in the first set of channels being aligned, characterised in that the first set of channels is spaced from the second set of channels by first and second webs, the first web being parallel to and spaced from the second web.

On Page 4, before the paragraph beginning on line 10, please insert the following new paragraphs:

In relation to the building element of the second aspect of the invention, each channel in each set has a base and in some applications it is useful to be able to screw through or otherwise penetrate the base. The use of two webs, spaced one from the other, can enable screws or other penetrating articles to be inserted through the base of a channel between the first and second webs, without affecting the strength of either web. This can be contrasted with the situation shown in Figure 1 of the PCT Application, for example. If it was desired to screw through the centre of base 13 of central channel 12 in Figure 1 of the PCT Application, the screw would penetrate web 11, affecting its integrity and possibly weakening the stud. That problem can be avoided by use of the building element of the present invention.

When the building element of the present invention is to be used as a stud, it is preferred that the first and second webs are located close to a centre line for the building element, the centre line extending from the centre of the first set of channels through the centre of the second set of channels. However, the building element of the invention may also be used as a mullion, in which case it is preferred that the first and second webs are located as far from the centre line as possible.

The stud or mullion of the present invention may be made of any suitable material but is preferably steel or aluminium. If desired, the stud or mullion of the present invention may be grooved, either to reduce mass or to enhance reception and retention of the co-operating means, or both. Preferred embodiments of these aspects are shown in connection with the attached drawings.

The use of first and second webs can also serve to strengthen the stud or mullion and enable lighter or thinner material to be used in its construction while reducing the likelihood of twisting.

When the building element of the present invention is to be used as a mullion, it may be convenient if the form of one set of channels is different from the form of the other set of channels. Use of the mullion of the invention can provide a system of providing external cladding or facades to buildings with hidden framing. The framing can accept glass or cladding panels and can enable simplified fitting of such panels. The mullion can also provide draining for the facade. One set of channels can accommodate the glass or cladding panels, while the other can accommodate internal linings for the building structure.

Especially when the building element of the invention is to be used as a mullion, it may have a first arm and a second arm, the first arm being at an angle to the second, each arm having two or more channels set side by side.

In addition to the first and second arms, the building element in this aspect of the invention may have third, or third and fourth, arms or even more. The angle between the first and second arms is preferably 90° but other angles are not excluded. When there are two arms, the element is preferably of an "L-shape". When there are three arms, the element preferably forms a "T-shape". The four-armed form of the element is preferably a cruciform shape.

The arms may lie in a single plane or may lie in two or three planes.

Preferably, there are three channels in each arm. The junction between the respective channels where the arms "meet" can take any desired confirmation, especially having regard to the desirability to enable the building element in this aspect of the invention to provide drainage.

If desired, the building element of this aspect of the invention may be formed so that it has a mirror image, joined by the two webs, each arm resembling the stud of the second aspect of the invention.

As mentioned above, grooves may be formed in the stud or mullion of the invention. Conveniently, at least some of these grooves may be made in channel walls. Complementary grooves may be formed on the resilient arms on the joining clip and may assist in locking the joining clip into a chosen channel, at least until it is desired to disengage the joining clip from the channel.

As will be apparent to one skilled in the art, it may be possible, using the joining clip and stud or mullion of the invention, to forward fix a panel to a stud or mullion. It is also to be appreciated that the stud or mullion of the present invention may be used with the joining clip of the PCT Application, and that the joining clip of the present application may be used with the stud of the PCT Application, in each case with appropriate adjustments if necessary.

It is contemplated that the stud or mullion of the invention may include means allowing it to be adjusted vertically in situ.

The invention also provides the adjustment device of the invention combined with the building element of the invention, being the stud or mullion. The adjustment device of the invention is preferably inserted into the building element of the second aspect of the invention.

On Page 4, please replace the paragraph beginning on line 19 and ending on line 26 with the following amended paragraph:

Accordingly, this invention provides, in a third aspect, a building element being a joining clip adapted to mount a panel or bracket to the stud or mullion referred to above, the joining clip including the co-operating means and also including means for connecting the joining clip to the panel or bracket, the co-operating means including a pair of resilient arms, characterised in that the joining clip has ~~a first two separate parts~~: a first longitudinally extending part which includes the means for connecting the joining clip to the panel or bracket and a second longitudinally

extending part which includes the pair of resilient arms, the first part being adapted to mate with the second part.

On Page 5, please delete the paragraph beginning on line 26 and ending on line 3 of Page 6. Please delete all of Pages 6, 7, and 8. On Page 9, please delete the paragraphs beginning on line 1 and ending on line 21. The text on Page 9 should begin with the section entitled "**Brief Description of the Drawings.**"